

My name is Rachel Basch. I've lived in Sandy Hook for 24 years. For 9 years, when my children were very young, we lived in a house directly behind the Sandy Hook School. We treated the school yard as an extension of our backyard. Until Friday, Dec. 14th, the hallways and the classrooms of that school were the matrix of all that was sweet and generative in my experience of life on this planet.

There is no recompense, no balm, no salve for what 27 families lost that day. Their loss is unthinkable, immeasurable, unbearable. The bullets that ripped through those tiny, precious bodies were bullets that were designed for maximum tissue damage. And those bullets entered the collective body, too. I wonder how many people in this room have children who in casual conversation describe where they will hide if it happens in art or gym or music. I wonder how many people here have children who are afraid to go to the movies, are afraid of being shot in their college classrooms. I wonder how many people here have found themselves suddenly afraid at the mall, in the post office, in church. The presence of these assault style weapons with their large capacity ammunition magazines has robbed those of us fortunate enough to be alive of our most basic sense of freedom.

Please pass legislation that:

1. Strengthens our assault weapons ban with a focus on improving current list and strengthening functionality features; apply "one military feature" test to definition of assault weapons. Bans possession and sale with no grandfathering.
2. Bans large capacity ammunition magazines of more than 7 rounds. No grandfathering.
3. Requires universal background checks on ALL sales and transfers, including long guns.
4. Requires registration of handguns with annual renewal. Require annual fee and annual background check for all guns owned; stipulation that they are still in the possession of original purchaser or transferee; explanation for any gun still not being in their possession. Require safety inspection every three years. Charge fee on initial registration and renewal.
5. Make gun owners liable for negligent storage if any person gains access to firearms and injures himself or another person or causes damage to property. The violation would be a Class D felony
6. Requires permit/license to purchase and carry all guns, including long guns, and to purchase ammunition
7. Prohibits sales of guns or ammunition via internet to CT residents.
8. Restricts handgun sales to one gun/month.

Sincerely,
Rachel Basch
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